The Chicago Tribune.

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WASHINGTON.

Conkling Talks in Opposition to Sumner's One-Term Resolution.

The Republican National Convention to be Held in Philadelphia, June 5.

Call Adopted by the Republican National Executive Committee.

Democratic Opposition to the Civil Service Reform System.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

THE ONE-TERM PRINCIPLE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 11.—After the morning hour had expired in the Senate to-day, Mr. Conkling called for the reading of Mr. Sumner's one-term resolution, and then proceeded to deliver his speech thereon. There was a very fair attendance, both in the galleries and Senate, owing to the expectation generally entertained that the New York Senator would reflect Administration opinions, not only upon the question under consideration, but also put forth, in a semi-official manner, the views of the President upon the various reform questions of the day. Mrs. President Grant occupied a seat in the diplomatic galleries, and Babcock and Porter were also present as distinguished listeners. With a brief exordium, he plunged at once into the merits of the resolution and its proposed application to the highest office in the gift of the people, and characterized it as an electioneering document conceived with an intent to defeat General Grant's nomination for a second term. He claimed that no ingenuity or dissimulation could relieve this suspicion, and that the preamble especially providing against such operation, was merely intended to throw dust in the eyes of the people. Here he conceived it necessary to give some snaught for advice, and, turning around to face Sumner, he warned that Senator that the Senate was not the place where Presidential candidates were engendered or aspirants nourished. It was the hot-house which ripened candidates rapidly only to show them their weakness. However, he forgot just whom he was addressing, and his admonition, by a natural direction, went to the Senator from Nevada, to the evident embarrassment of Nye and amusement of the spectators. The philosophy of the resolution he interpreted to be this: that Grant's renomination was certain, and efforts to defeat that event so ineffectual that as a last resort it was considered necessary to pervert the opposition through the medium of a Constitutional amendment. To give force to this idea, he turned again to Sumner, and said that it publicly could pierce the holy garb of the President's enemies, and, in a manner, was given to Johnson's observation, that patriotism was the last refuge for scoundrels. He thought that the best reverse reform movement would be to assess a tax upon hypocrisy. Dozens of sentences like these comprised his remarks upon those who originated and supported the measure. But asto its merits as an independent proposition, he hardly paid the cold respect of a passing glance. He seemed determined to look upon it in the light of a hostile political movement upon the President, whose Administration he could not praise too highly, and for whose vindication, during a set visit of Congress, he could not show enough contempt. This entire speech lasted little less than two hours, and fell far below what was popularly conceded to his ability. Its language was elegant, but its suggestions were few, and its whole tone far below the dignity of the occasion; at least such is the general verdict of those who heard it. He was replied to by Mr. Sumner at some length, who expressed his surprise that Conkling should have travelled over so much ground without having even touched upon the principles involved in the resolution. On this point he contented himself by quoting authorities and quoting opinions of distinguished constitutional lawyers in favor of the one-term principle. As to the personalities in which Conkling indulged, and his allusions to improper motives in bringing forward the resolution, he simply remarked that they were not worth noticing. When he finished the Senate adjourned until Monday.

DEFICIENCY BILL.

The Treasury Department estimates the deficiencies, to complete the service of 1873 and prior years, as follows: State Department, $150,312; Treasury, $681,805; War, $227,484; Navy, $3,718; Interior, 90,000. Total, $1,262,120. Of the deficiencies in the State Department, $123,000 was caused by the operation of the laws passed July, 1870. Of those in the Treasury Department, $250,000 is for stamps, paper, and dies in Internal Revenue Bureau, and $50,000 for contingent expenses independent; Treasury $10,000 on account of losses by the Chicago fire, and $40,784 liabilities incurred by General Richier, the last Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds.

THE STEAMBOAT BILL.

The House Committee on Commerce had a long session to-day over the Steamboat bill. Considerable opposition was developed, coming chiefly from owners of patent devices, authors of the law, and some of the Inspectors. On motion of General Negley, next Tuesday was designated for hearing such owners, as it was decided after such debate that it should be open to both sides. The discussion and votes in committee, to-day, were very favorable to the passage of the new bill through the committee with few modifications.

WAR CLAIMS.

Secretaries Fish, Belknap, and Boutwell, Commissioners to report on the claim of Corcoran, for the use of his art-building by the Quartermaster, during the war, have recommended the payment of $125,000.

TAX ON MATCHES.

In the reduction of taxes by the Ways and Means Committee, the chances are that the bill of Monroe, of Ohio, to abolish the tax on matches, will be agreed to. The chief argument made by Monroe is, that it will reach a large class of consumers of moderate means, and also enable small manufacturers to begin work again. The latter have been shut out, since the heavy manufacturers can afford to buy the required stamps in large sums, and so realize prices from the retailers allowed by law.

NOMINATIONS.

J. F. Legate, of Kansas, was to-day nominated Governor of Washington Territory. This is the man who claimed to have a letter from Senator Sumner promising to vote against impeachment if Postmaster Randall would do certain things. This Legate afterward denied in Kansas, but subsequently to that denial came to Washington and declared that he had both of the original letters and photographs of them, and these latter he showed to several persons. Senators think the President has been imposed upon by Kansas politicians in this matter.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

It seems that several prominent Democrats, in both Houses, have found grounds of opposition to the new Civil Service regulations. They claim that by relieving the heads of departments from the power of making their own clerical selections, these officials are enabled to disclaim any responsibility for acts of their subordinates. It is proposed to get up some opposition to these regulations in this shape, with special reference to the premeditated investigation into the method of awarding contracts in the Post Office Department.

THE FIVE PER CENT LOAN.

Secretary Boutwell and Jay Cooke were before the Ways and Means Committee to-day to answer inquiries called for in Cox's resolution as to the cost of negotiating the 5 per cents bonds and the explanation of other matters connecting therewith. The Committee will resume the examination of these parties to-morrow, when it is understood that the terms of the propositions lately submitted for the $200,000,000 more bonds or the part of Jay Cooke & Co., will be inquired into. The proceedings are strictly secret for the present.

(To the Associated Press.)

THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Republican National Committee met here to-day by the Chicago Convention call, and took up this evening the question of holding the next National Convention. Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, presided. After a general exchange of opinions, the question was taken of selecting the first Wednesday in June as the time for holding the Convention. The vote was yeas, 22; noes, 6. On motion, the Executive Committee was decided to hear communications from cities have to say as to the propositions for the location of the Convention. It was found that propositions had been received from Boston, Louisville, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Washington. Dr. Loring advocated the claims of Boston. Mr. Wetherell urged the claims of Philadelphia, which, being the State of Pennsylvania, requires the support of Pennsylvania, he said, gives the electoral vote, which is all important. He said that the hotel-keepers had given a guarantee of $100,000 for large extortionate prices. Governor Stevenson, of Ohio, proposed the name of Cincinnati as the place of holding the Convention. It was not only desirable, but by all means proper that the vote should be given by him, as a fair representative of the Middle States, where the Republican Convention had been held in Philadelphia once, in the East twice, in the same Church with him or not. [Laughter.] Mr. COX addressed the Speaker. The audience immediately moved over to the Democratic side. He passed him at the memory of the Puritans. He eulogized Roger Williams, whose statue he hailed as a standing protest against intolerance, intolerance and bigotry.

Mr. BUTLER, (Mass.), next engaged the attention of the House, the audience moving back ward to the Republican side. He proceeded to defend and eulogize the Puritans. Alluding to a remark of Cox's that Roger Williams had intended to land on Manhattan Island, but had by a dispensation of Providence gone to Massachusetts Bay, he said he would stop for a moment to contemplate what would have been the condition of Manhattan Island if the Pilgrims had stopped there. [Laughter.] Might he not point to Massachusetts and Manhattan as specimens—on the one side a Puritan Commonwealth, on the other a Commonwealth which heeded words to characterize it. [Laughter.]

Mr. NIBLACK took exception to the phraseology of the resolution in the sentence "That this work of art is accepted in the name of the nation." He suggested that the proper phraseology would be in the name of the people of the United States. He moved to amend in that respect.

Mr. ELDRIDGE suggested that Mr. Niblack's amendment corresponded exactly with the Constitution, "by the people of the United States."

Mr. HOAR (Mass.) feared the House would pause before striking from the resolution the assertion that this country is a nation.

Mr. NIBLACK said it was a mere question in phraseology. The word "nation" appeared to him as having a sort of schoolmaster or pedagogue twang about it which might suit some localities, but did not suit him. He called the yeas and nays. The vote was taken, and resulted, yeas, 78; nays, 124. The Democrats all voted aye, and the Republicans all no.

The joint resolution was then passed.

LOUISIANA.

Mr. DAWES asked leave to offer a resolution for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the condition of Louisiana.

Messrs. CONKLING and ELDRIDGE objected. Adjourned.

FOREIGN.

France.

LONDON, Jan. 11.—The Paris *Rejister* says: The United States squadron, consisting of the Wabash, Shenandoah, Piscataqua, Plymouth, Brooklyn, and Juniata is in the harbor of Rio. Commodore Alden in command, he having succeeded Admiral Beggs, who returns.

PARIS, Jan. 11.—A remonstrance signed by eight hundred manufacturers of Paris has been sent to the Assembly against the increase of duties on raw cotton and silk.

Only eight Chambers of Commerce of this city opposed the Anglo-French Commercial treaty.

The *Journal of Paris* praises the people of the United States for their unbounded liberality in contributing relief to the sufferers of the war, and for the intelligent manner in which the proceeds have been distributed.

The *Journal d'as Debats* professes a feeling of indifference as to the return of the Assembly to Paris.

PARIS, Jan. 11.—The *Bien* publicly announces that General Lefio, formerly French Ambassador to the Court of St. Petersburg, will shortly visit Versailles, there to present the credentials of the Czar Alexander for the presentation to President Thiers of the affectionate greeting of the Emperor of Russia.

Members of the party of the Left in the Assembly are making preparation for the presentation to that body on January 24 a petition from both the provincial and definitive establishment of the Republic.

The Minister of Finance will in two weeks pay the back pay of the militia of the German war indemnity.

Great Britain.

LONDON, Jan. 11.—A terrible explosion occurred in Wales yesterday, in the Oakwood colliery, while the men were at work. Many were already rescued, but a gang of miners, it is feared, are perished. Eleven dead men have been taken out. Another explosion followed the first, and the fire-damp ignited. Extensive works are ruined and machinery were entirely destroyed.

LONDON, Jan. 11.—Viscount Parker Millbank, M. P., in an address denounced the conduct of Premier Charles Dilke. He promised to call on him to repeat in Parliament his declarations in regard to the Count and Countess of Gerolstein, on his failing to answer, to brand him as he deserves.

Austria.

VIENNA, Jan. 11.—The draft of an address from the Upper House of the Reichsrath, calls the attention of the Government to the increasing discontent among the subjects of various portions of the Empire, arising from the recent misgovernment, and particularly against the increase of taxation for military purposes.

Germany.

LONDON, Jan. 11.—The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* says that a despatch of Great Britain had been delivered to the Emperor of Germany the memorandum of the British Government relative to the San Juan boundary question.

Spain.

Mexico.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—A City of Mexico despatch of Dec. 31, states that the revolutionists under Diaz, in Oaxaca, had been completely routed, with the loss of his artillery, and many killed and wounded.

THE KU-KLUX TRIALS.

Mr. Stanbury's Experiences at Columbia, S. C.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 11.—The Gazette of this city to-morrow publishes the substance of an interview which its reporter has had with Hon. Henry Stanbery, concerning certain damaging statements made before the Senate Committee of his experiences at the Ku-Klux trials in south Carolina, and specially with reference to the alleged discovery of letters shown him and read to him by Hon. Reverdy Johnson, by leading citizens in Columbia, and the report that they had retired in disgust from the prosecution. Mr. Stanbery, who had heard of these statements, but not read them, being shown them, at once pronounced them wholly without foundation. He said Mr. Johnson and he received in Columbia a warm welcome from the citizens, who repeatedly expressed their grateful sense of the high compliment paid to Mr. Johnson and himself, who found themselves too fully occupied with their professional duties, and besides, under the circumstances, they deemed it inexpedient to go about the city. They received a letter from General Wade Hampton, dated Columbia, December 22, written on the evening of the day of the adjournment of the court, in which General Hampton says: "Allow me, as Chairman of the committee inviting you here, to express the sense of obligation felt by our people for you, for the zeal you have shown, and the great ability you have manifested, in the great questions now at stake. I am glad to say that your course also united from a speech made by Senator Wade, of Ohio, in December, 1866, in support of the one-term principle. If these were his conclusions, he said, without going into an argument, but merely suggesting the great importance of the measure, I simply say, let that parties for several years seem to have been of the opinion that the great defect in our system, which this proposition aimed to remedy. Such has been the condition of parties generally in this Government that it has been almost a hopeless task to attempt to legislate upon the Executive tion. But now there is an opportunity. I believe every man is sensible that the correction of this evil ought to be promptly applied.

Further consideration of the joint resolution was postponed.

BRIDGE BILL.

Mr. CARPENTER introduced a bill, which was referred, authorizing the West Wisconsin Railway Company to construct and maintain a railroad bridge across Lake St. Croix at Hudson, Wis.

ADJOURNMENT.

After a brief executive session, the Senate adjourned till Monday.

NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED.

The Senate, to-day, made the following confirmations: Postmasters—Abram Hawkins, Rochester, Minn.; David W. Magee, Peoria, Ill.; Prosper Carroll, Whitewater, Wis.; A. J. McCoy, Beaver Dam, Wis.; David K. Noyes, Baraboo, Wis.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

EDWARDS, OF ARKANSAS.

Mr. EDWARDS, of Arkansas, said that if he had been present when the report, reflecting upon him and Senator Clay, was made, he should have denounced the assertions taken as untrue, and should have moved for an investigating Committee. He was content, however, now to leave the matter with the Election Committee.

RIVER IMPROVEMENT.

A resolution, in reference to the improvement of the Tennessee River, was adopted.

CANAL BILL.

A bill from the Commerce Committee authorizing the construction of a ship-canal from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River, was reported and recommitted.

PRIVATE BILL PASSED.

A bill passed for the relief of Mrs. Parker, whose husband had discovered the Gerard Islands, in the Pacific Ocean, from which she has derived no advantages.

LIMITATION OF APPEALS.

Mr. BUTLER, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill increasing limitation of the minimum amount of suits which may be appealed to the Supreme Court, from $2,000 to $5,000, and other rules relative to appeals from Territorial courts, and in criminal proceedings. Ordered printed and recommitted.

STATUS OF ROGER WILLIAMS.

The joint resolution accepting the statue of Roger Williams from Rhode Island was then taken up.

Mr. RAMES eulogized the life and character of Roger Williams.

Mr. DAWES replied to some remarks relative to the banishment of Williams from Massachusetts to Rhode Island. He conceded the virtues claimed for him, but said Williams was banished for his opposition to the Puritans. He said Williams denied the title of people to their lands as derived by grant from the Crown of England, and held that therefore could be no valid title except that derived from the Indians. Mr. Hanks, referring to the troubles which Williams had raised, said he hoped no assertion would be taken by any of his colleagues if he hinted there were still a few more of that sort left in the State. [Laughter.] Turning to Mr. Butler, Mr. Dawes remarked, "There is no exception to that, is there?"

Mr. BUTLER nodded in acquiescence. Nonat all.

Continued Mr. DAWES: "I am sure none of my colleagues will take exception to that." He then went on to enlarge upon the views expressed by him as to the claims of banishment.

Mr. RAMES undertook to reaffirm his views, and after Mr. Banks had finished, members from the Democratic side, expressing their concurrence in the sentiments of Mr. Dawes, the joint resolution was passed.

Mr. BANKS remarked that in the preamble to the resolution there is summary ground on which he could place the one-term principle. Mr. Sumner here read the preamble heretofore published; also quoted from a speech made by Senator Wade, of Ohio, in December, 1866, in support of the one-term principle. If these were his conclusions, he said, without going into an argument, but merely suggesting the great importance of the measure, I simply say, let that parties for several years seem to have been of the opinion that the great defect in our system, which this proposition aimed to remedy. Such has been the condition of parties generally in this Government that it has been almost a hopeless task to attempt to legislate upon the Executive tion. But now there is an opportunity. I believe every man is sensible that the correction of this evil ought to be promptly applied.

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Mr. BUTLER nodded in acquiescence. None at all.

Continued Mr. BANKS

NEW YORK.

Tweed Declines to Take His Seat in the State Senate.

Testimony Given Before the Custom House Investigating Committee Yesterday.

Daily Review of the Leading Markets.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

THE MONEY MARKET.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—To-day, showed an increased supply of loanable funds, and declining rates of interest. The city banks are receiving legal tenders and currency from the interior, and considerable amounts from Boston. At the opening, loans were made at 6 to 7 per cent, and in the after part of the day the supply was so largely in excess of the demand that loans were made at 5, 4, and even as low as 3 per cent. There is a good demand for commercial paper; buyers, however, discriminating rather more closely in their purchases. The supply of paper in brokers' hands is insufficient to met the demand, which is anxious to be supplied before rates decline, as they are likely to do at an early day. The mercantile failures for the year just closed are less than usual, and, on the whole, buyers of paper have been fortunate.

GOVERNMENT BONDS.

The Government bond market was firm, although transactions were light and gold lower. Pacific bonds were the feature of the market, the demand being active at an advance of ¼ to ¾ per cent since yesterday, closing strong at 103 to 103¼. Union Pacifics closed at 99½ to 99¾ for firsts; 81 to 81¼ for land grants; 87½ to 87¾ for incomes; and 81¼ to 82 for stock.

DISBURSEMENT OF GOLD.

The Sub-Treasury disbursed to-day, $60,000 in gold in the redemption of 6-20 bonds, making the total to date $23,697,000; and $420,000 on account of the January interest, making the total to date $1,077,703.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

The foreign exchange market was dull; prime bankers' 60 day sterling bills are quoted from 109 to 109¼.

GOLD.

The gold market was more active and fluctuating, ranging between 108¾ and 108¾. The rates paid for carrying were 7 to 1 per cent. After the Board adjourned, the quotations were 108¾ to 108¾ at the close, the short interest in the gold market steadily increasing, and a good foundation is laying for a sharp upward turn, particularly if there should be any check to the $600,000,000 negotiation. The bids for Government gold at the Assistant Treasury, to-day, amounted to $8,943,000, at prices ranging from 108.74 to 108, and the awards —$100,000—were made at 108.72 to 108.74.

STOCKS.

The stock market was strong, with an active movement, and an advance in some of the leading shares. Among the railway stocks, Wabash, Lake Shore, New York Central, Erie, and Pittsburg were the most active. In Union Pacific there is a speculative movement to make the stock scarce for the purpose of twisting the short interest. Pacific Mail was strong, and advanced on purchases by influential operators.

THE MILWAUKEE MEETING

in this city to-day adjourned without taking action on the subject of a dividend. It is given out that no dividend on the common stock will be declared, and that the one per cent preferred stock will be at the rate of 7 per cent per annum.

FLOUR.

The market for the common and medium grades of State and Western flour was again 5@10c lower, but this decline led to more activity, and, in some cases, pretty full prices were paid toward the close. The receipts continue liberal for the season, and receivers are quite inclined to meet the views of shippers and clear off surplus stock.

WHEAT.

The wheat market was dull, and prices about 1c lower. A decline in gold and the advance demanded for ocean freights operated to the disadvantage of shippers, and they were obliged to reduce their bids, while mill are were not inclined to operate to any extent.

CORN.

Corn was in large supply, and prices were again lower. Under the advance in ocean freights, and the decline in gold at the concession, however, the market was quite active.

[To the Associated Press.]

THE CUSTOM HOUSE INVESTIGATION.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—The Congressional Retrenchment Committee visited the Custom House this morning. Several anonymous letters were thrown into the waste-basket. Ex-Appraiser Palmer testified that Assistant Treasurer Bodfrel was Harbor Master, proposed to Palmer to divide the profits on giving large allowances to importers on damaged goods; which proposition Palmer refused, and made known to Secretary Boutwell. Subsequently, Thompson was appointed a weigher in the room from which the recommendation (on Palmer heard) of George Opdyke.

Commissioner Palmer testified to his belief that extensive frauds were perpetrated under decrease frauds. He never heard of any conviction, and believed that there were more larcenies of goods while in possession of the Custom House than otherwheres. Mr. Palmer said he was informed that his communicating the "mission of Thompson to Secretary Boutwell was the reason of his removal, through the efforts of Senator Conkling. Mr. Palmer declined to give the name of his informant. He did not give his information to ex-Collector Murphy.

J. S. Williams, of the Great Western Line of Steamers, preferred the present appraisal system to the old system, but if all steamships had their own general order stores, it would save expense and time.

Several letters were received from Inspectors, Custom House officials and others, requesting to be entranced as witnesses. An attempt was made to get a letter to by John McCabe, late Assistant Weigher, in which he states that, while so employed, it was the common practice not to actually weigh a large portion of the sugars landed in the district, but take the weight from the foreign mark on the packages. He also swore that the entire week before the late election fifty-seven sixteen men were employed and paid for full time for duties and labor which it only required four men to perform; that most of said men were not employed.

General Palmer's testimony showed that when Secretary Boutwell refused to appoint Weigher Thompson, whose unfitness was brought to his notice, Senator Conkling went to Secretary Boutwell and influenced him to appoint applicant. General Palmer related instances of cases of goods being broken open and plundered while in the stores.

John G. Dale, of the Inman Line, testified that he had not suffered any serious inconvenience from the Lect & Stocking warehouse since the inquiry began.

The committee are divided into Custom House men and "the other side." Senators Casserly and Bayard are "the other side," and press the investigation, while other members are more variably cross-examine the witnesses as counsel for the Custom House. One Bliss is the prompter for Senator Howe in putting questions. Palmer, while under examination to-day, noticed the activity of Bliss in handing written questions to Senator Howe. He asked if he was testifying or cross-examined by Mr. Bliss indirectly. I have no objection, provided he commits to go on the stand. Senator Howe explained that he had been a week trying to get information from the Custom House with regard to the officials.

A MODEL OPERATING ROOM.

The new operating room of the Western Union Telegraph Company at the principal office, No. 145 Broadway, was occupied this afternoon. Five months' time has been spent in its preparation. It is now the finest room of the kind in the country. The company have expended money lavishly, providing for the comfort of their employes. They have evidently taken advantage of all improvements which time and taste have demonstrated the value of. Four o'clock was the hour appointed for the tranfer of the superintendents to the new quarters. Quite a number of invited guests were then on hand to witness the event. Many of those present during the forenoon at the critical moment some unlooked-for hitch might interfere with the prompt use of the room, but at 4:30 o'clock President Orton called the company to order (the speaker having a few minutes previously filed to their new stations), and in a few well-chosen remarks opened the room for business. Mr. Orton congratulated the employes upon their possession of new quarters, which, he said, were the fruit of twenty years' experience. The result is truly a marvel of taste and elegance. He praised the operators for the cheerful assiduity with which their duties have been performed, and said if they do as well in future as in the past, the company will be ready to meet all demands of the public. He also congratulated the company on the harmonious action (on Palmer heard) of George Opdyke.

At 22 minutes past 4 every man was at his work, and at the close of office was complete. Among the improvements of the new room are splendid nickel-plated switch-board, so nicely arranged that the wires can be shifted from one instrument to another in an instant; complete sets of new desks and instruments, and use of steam in the manufacture of printing instruments in the engraving department. The wires are all laid under the floors in cables, and the great room, 120 feet in length by 80 in width, is as near noiseless as can be with the desks at which upward of 100 operators are writing to the clicks of the small machine which has the name of Morse Hiselrden Scott T. Eckert, Division Superintendent at Chicago, Jer. C. Hacker, Manager A. S. Brown, and Messrs. Downer, Dolan, Applebaugh, Small, Prof. Larissey, and others, for the manner in which the new room has been arranged, and the almost unconceivable rapidity with which the transfer of the operators was accomplished.

SANITARY MATTERS.

The Sachems of Tammany have passed a resolution closing the hall to all political committees or organizations. The presidents asserts that as the central democratic committee was elected in 1871, this action ignores the recently-constructed General Committee on the part of the Tammany organization, a proceeding which the *Herald* thinks will lead to a further disruption of the Democratic party in this State.

The Tammany General Committee, to-day, applied to Judge Barnard for a writ of *mandamus*, compelling the Sachems to admit them to the hall. It is understood that the writ will be granted as soon as the papers are fully prepared.

STOKES VISITED BY HIS FATHER.

Stokes was visited in prison to-day by his father. The interview lasted two hours, and was very affecting.

REMOVALS.

The Board of Aldermen to-day removed all officers appointed by Tweed.

ELECTION OFFICERS INDICTED.

The Grand Jury has indicted twelve Electio Inspectors in the Sixth Ward for fraudulent practices. All appeared in Court and gave bail in $500 each.

MISC.

Erie officials state that there is no intention of offering the Vice Presidency, made vacant by the death of Fisk, to McClellan.

TWEED BACKS DOWN.

An Albany letter states that Tweed has notified his friends that he is not going to claim his seat in the Senate.

ILLNESS OF BRANTUS COMING.

Erastus Corning is dangerously ill.

THE KIRK-MANSFIELD SUIT ENDED.

Judge Bixby, before whom the Fisk-Mansfield libel case has been pending, states that the case, of course, is now practically ended, and will not be brought up again.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK.

At the annual meeting of the Methodist Sunday School Union, yesterday, Bishop Morris was chosen President of the Board of Managers. One thousand dollars to each, was appropriated for the Sunday School work in Germany, India, and South America.

TWEED'S TACTICS.

The *Times* says the election of John Cochrane, a Tammany Republican, to the Presidency of the Board of Aldermen, and the subsequent retirement of Mayor Hall, so that Cochrane will be the acting Mayor, is the result of Tammany tactics, as proposed privately by Tweed.

GOING TO RUSSIA.

The New York Yacht Club is making preparations for a cruise to Russia next summer, by invitation of the Grand Duke.

MAYOR HALL.

It is now stated that Mayor Hall has gone to visit Sweeny, at St. Catharines, Canada.

MISS MANSFIELD COMPLAINS.

Miss Mansfield complains to the police that her house has been watched day and night, since the murder of Fisk, by strangers. She can't go out for fear of personal violence. An officer has promised to give her case attention.

LOUISIANA.

Latest Phase of the Political Muddle in New Orleans—The Grand Jury Tampered With—Reach Warrant Issued for the Arrest of Carter.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 11.—The political muddle continues. Metropolitan policemen and Winchester rifles predominate.

At the Mechanic's Institute the Senate had no quorum. In the House, Young (colored), of Concordia, in the course of remarks, stated that he was in favor of all the reforms demanded by the Democratic members; that he favored the repeal of all obnoxious laws, and if the Governor vetoed them, he would vote to pass them over his veto. He stated that he did not come to the Legislature to represent a party, but the whole people of his parish. These remarks elicited a decidedly non-committal reception.

Governor Warmouth, in a note to General Emory, says: "Affairs have assumed such a shape now that I think the danger of riot or tumult has passed. I write to-day that I think best to dismiss a part of the force, at 12 o'clock, and withdraw your troops to the barracks."

In the First District Court, when the Grand Jury came in this morning, Judge Abell called them before him and ordered the reading of an article from a newspaper regarding the assault made on New Year's Day on Mr. Sheridan, a negro, colored, by Lieutenant Governor Pinchback and others. After the reading the Judge asked the foreman if they had taken any action in the matter. The foreman replied they had not. The Judge then asked if they had taken action regarding the killing of Wheyland. The foreman replied that they had, and had already subpœnaed witnesses for this morning. The Judge then read a letter from a prominent member of the bar, charging that the Grand Jury had been manipulated or packed by Governor Warmouth. Judge Abell then discharged the Grand Jury, having sufficient reasons to believe that they had failed to do their duty that while not at all inquiring into the dastardly assassination of Major Chester, they, with a most astonishing quickness, went into the Wheyland homicide; also that nine of the sixteen jurors were from the Second District.

It is stated that a *capias* has been issued for the parties implicated in the shooting of Major Chester, including Lieutenant Governor Pinchback, Sheriff Hyams, Judge Abell, and others. Judge Abell also issued a bench warrant for the arrest of George W. Carter, implicated in the Wheyland homicide.

THE WEST.

Arrangements for the Grand Duke's Hunting Tour—The Blockade on the Union Pacific.

OMAHA, Jan. 11.—A hunting camp has been established near the Republican River as a base of operations and General Sheridan and the Duke Alexis, Buffalo and other game are reported plentiful in the vicinity. It is expected that nearly 1,000 Indians will be collected, and a reception will be given the distinguished visitors at this place to-morrow.

The Union Pacific Road two eastward bound passenger trains that have been blocked at Creston have gotten through the obstructions at that place. Engineer Rawlins thinks it will be about last night stuck at Simpson's Station all night, and left Medicine Bow at 2:30 p. m. to-day. The train that left Rawlins this morning is not yet at Medicine Bow. The road is reported blocked at Lookout, and the westward bound train of yesterday is supposed to be there.

War Department Weather Prognostics.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The barometer will probably continue low at the Rocky Mountain stations on Friday, with cloudy and threatening weather. An area of rising barometer, with clearing weather, extended from the Missouri and Mississippi rivers eastward to the Atlantic and along the coast. The low pressure now on Lake Ontario will move eastward over New England to-night, with threatening weather, and light rain, locally on the Atlantic coast. The southerly winds will increase to-night on the east Atlantic, veering on Friday to the west, with plenty of rain. An extensive southwest winds, veering to north west will prevail on Lake Erie and Lake Ontario to-night, with a lower extent on Lakes Huron and Michigan.

DUTY FREE.

Draft of a Memorial to Congress Relating to the Admission of Building Material Free of Duty.

At a meeting held on Monday evening in relation to the admission of building material free of duty, a committee of five was appointed to draft a memorial to Congress. This committee, consisting of Hon. William Bross, Hon. T. F. Cochaugh, Mayor Medill, Alderman Ogden, and E. M. Arnold, Esq., have nufted upon a form of memorial which it is intended to have properly prepared and circulated for signatures. The memorial is as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

The undersigned memorialists, citizens of Chicago, Illinois, do respectfully represent to your honorable body that on the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th days of Oct., 1871, a series of conflagrations occurred in this city of unexampled magnitude and destructiveness, by which over 2,000 acres of the most valuable portion of the city was were totally consumed, with their contents, including nearly the whole of that section of the city devoted to the business of wholesale trade, and other than less than $200,000,000, of which not more than one fifth can possibly be reimbursed by insurance.

In view of this unparalleled calamity we do earnestly pray your honorable body to enact a law remitting the duties upon all such building material as may be necessary for the construction of buildings in the district devastated by fire on the days or any time during the present year, and that all duties and taxes paid on such materials until the 1st of November, 1871, in consequence of the very large demand for building materials consequent upon this fire, the prices of many indispensable Articles have greatly advanced, and the amount of insurance money is altogether insufficient. We believe that the Government and people of the United States can afford to obtain revenue from so appalling a calamity as that which has visited us, and inasmuch as the relief which we ask was granted to the city of Portland, Maine, after a similar but altogether less destructive conflagration, we are emboldened to present this, our petition, as above set forth.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

MISCELLANEOUS CITY ITEMS.

The Ætna Base Ball Club.

A special meeting of the Ætna Base Ball Club was held last evening at No. 39 West Randolph street. The attendance was large, and it was evident that there was no lack of interest in the champion members of the organization. It was decided to give the customary annual ball of the Ætna Club, but the date was left open. It was also fully determined to preserve the Ætna organization for 1872, and to put in the field a nine as good as ever before. All the old nine will remain, and the vacant positions will be filled with the best amateur players to be had. These matters are considered of the first importance, and at next meeting of the Club, which will be held at the same place on Thursday evening next.

Scammon Hospital.

At a meeting of the Board of Managers of this hospital, held on January 8, at the hospital, the resident physician made the following report: During the quarter ending December 31, 1871, 85 patients were admitted to the hospital, 38 were discharged, 2 died, and there are 23 remaining in the hospital. There was received in cash, $236. Bills were paid to the amount of $97. 21. This institution is very much in need of funds, and the charitable everywhere, especially the adherents of homeopathy are invited to contribute. Old linen for bandages is also greatly needed. Donations may be sent directly to the hospital, No. 327 Cottage Grove avenue, care of Dr. Dorian, or to the Secretary of the Board, Dr. T. S. Hoyne, No. 87 Wabash avenue.

Meteorological.

Meteorological observations, as recorded by J. G. Langguth, optician, 39 West Randolph street, observer to the Smithsonian Institute. The cavall letters are the initials for "centie," "high," "veering," "rain," "snow," "moist atmosphere," "dry":

CHICAGO, Jan. 11.

Time.	Ther.	Bar.	Wind.	State.
Night preceding.	30 F			To 2 p. m.
7:0 a. m.	31	29.26	S. W. h.	
2:0 p. m.	37	29.20	S. W. h.	
7:0 p. m.	37	29.23	W S W. g.	Rain.

Miscellaneous.

Colonel W. R. Holloway, of the Indianapolis *Journal*, arrived in the city last evening, and took lunch at the Sherman House.

—Arnold Weild, aged 12 years, was run over by a farmer's wagon, near the corner of Nineteenth and Archer avenue, yesterday afternoon, and had his left leg broken. His parents resided at No. 198 Bushnell street, whither he was taken.

—Cornelius Highland, colored, was released from the County Jail at noon yesterday, and at 1 o'clock was in a cell at the Armory. He saw a buffalo-robe during his perambulations, and, having "treated" it, left a pedestrian minus.

A boarder at No. 207 South Clark street ran away last evening with a coat, a vest, a pair of pants, a revolver, and $6 belonging to one Louis Schmidt, with roomed with the aforesaid pugnacious boarder.

—Another splendid audience was in attendance at the new Academy of Music, last evening, to witness Carey, as presented by Wyndham's unrivalled comedy company of Mr. Gardner may well be proud of the success of his new theatre, which is destined to be one of the most popular places of amusement ever located in Chicago.

—Policeman Fanning shot a supposed mad-dog on the corner of Eighteenth and State streets yesterday afternoon. The dog bit another dog, and a little girl just before he was killed. Officer Casey similarly disposed of another dog, which, it was said, had been served children, on Archer avenue, on Arnold street. They could not be found, and hence their having been bitten is considered doubtful.

ST. LOUIS.

The Visit of the Grand Duke—A Brilliant Ball.

The Mississippi River Cutting a New Channel.

The Passive Policy—A Railroad Through Egypt—Paul Morphy.

Correspondence of The Chicago Tribune.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 10.

ALEXIS.

For several weeks "Society," in the "Future Great City," has been on the qui vive in anticipation of the visit of the Grand Duke Alexis. The fair huntresses of the dear Muscovy duck have been furbishing up all the small arms and heavy guns of their strategy, natural and simulated. The millinery arsenals have been ransacked of their latest "needle"-guns, and, if the "sound of hammers closing rivets up" has not been heard, the rattle of sewing machines, and clatter of feminine voices in long and deep consultation, have. The Grand Duke has been interviewed and speeched, his appearance and manners described in the columns by the ubiquitous Jenkins, and his most trivial acts recorded in the most "highfalutin" American. Every word concerning him in the daily journals has been read and re-read. The city magnates have "received" him; driven him about the city; shown him the miniature park Lafayette; yanked him about the sloppy, dingy streets; shoved and hustled him in the crowded and not magnificent Merchants' Exchange; exhibited to his astonished gaze the two river piers of the great bridge that is to be, and the wilderness of scaffoldings, and as yet chaotic heaps of stone where will be the approaches; and, no doubt, prevailed upon him to drink some acrid Hermitage, which, if he should throw off the sidewalks in the neighborhood of the Southern; peered up at the windows of the Ducal apartments; intruded into the corridors of the hotel; or followed his carriage as an unpicturesque escort. And Monday night all this attention and excitement culminated in a grand ball, when St. Louis fairly outdid and outshone herself in an attempt to rival, if not surpass, the brilliance of all the other entertainments given the Royal guest in America, —with which, by the way, he must be pretty well satiated, by this time, or, if not, he must possess a capacity for balls and banquets which does credit to his physical stamina, and his zest for entertainments. But Alexis is a fine, agreeable, refreshingly natured, and the mild resignation with which he submits to be thus hustled about, set up and taken down, like some new, strange toy, confirms the report of his good nature.

The beauty and the gallantry of St. Louis were well represented last night. Of the former, I cannot say too much. St. Louis is indeed happy in the possession of beautiful women. Observation in all the principal cities of the country confirms the assertion. And, whether representing the quiet dignity of the best society, or the less restrained freedom of more demonstrative temperaments, no man can be a churl who could find any fault with them. But of the opposite sex I can speak freer. A more cosmopolitan collection it would be hard to find. The Englishman with his "mutton-leg" whiskers, the Irishman, the Scotchman, the German, the Yankee, the Westerner, the Southron,—the latter always recalling Justin McCarthy's happy descriptive remark when he represented Thom as wearing a "chronic air of offended dignity,"—all were represented,—their origin and peculiarities distinctly marked, but aggregated into one American citizenship, tinged in some degree by the nation's guest.

The ball-room was a marvel of beauty in its ornamentation. The Russian and American flags everywhere draped and entwined in close and mutual caress. Flowers and evergreens triumphantly bore down the idea of winter, cold, and snow that ruled without; while, hidden beneath the abundant foliage that lined the walls with nature's own tracery, hundreds of birds, in the pauses of the music, filled the air with their softer, sweeter, unartificial songs. But how the poor little things found heart to utter a note amid the glare of gas and glitter, and crush, in the heavy, perfumed air, is a wonder to me. It was the very courage of utter innocence and simplicity.

The funeral aspect of the full evening dress of gentlemen of the present day,—more suited to to an undertaker than for pleasure's mission—was agreeably rouinewed by the jaunty, Frenchy uniforms of some of our military organizations. The United States Post Band —known here as the Arsenal Band, from the location of the post at the Arsenal—was called into requisition, and, during the evening, extended from its stand in the centre of the hall to the outside on this occasion, gave general delight by its splendid performance.

That much-abused individual, "the Clerk of the Weather," with an eye to the fitness of things, was in no hurry this morning about accordingly deep fall of snow for this locality; and, there being no wind, and the snow of that damp, adhesive quality that sticks to whatever it touches, the two twigs of trees and every outdoor object, however slight, were a robe of spotless ermine, and sleighs rushed about, the tintinnabuation of their bells making the quiet air joyous with excitement. The scene must have appeared quite homelike to the Russes, even if the temperature was somewhat higher than that which usually prevails on the Neva. The ruins of Chicago served to remind the Duke of a certain epoch in the history of Moscow. St. Louis has given him a more pleasant picture of the "Future Great."

But the great event is over; the snow is fast merging into that wretched compound of mud and slush that cushions our streets so often in winter; the Hermitage Prince will depart, and the events of the past few days be relegated to the custody and obscurity of the past, only dimly remembered amid the ever-recurring events of our busy life—living longest, and soonest, perhaps, in the memory of those of the gentler sex who touched the pinnacle of their ambition in dancing with the son of the Czar, or those disappointed ones who smiled and charmed in vain.

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

And now the Mississippi River, with its restless, fickle, and treacherous, eye-changing currents, deflected by the projection in the upper part of the city, known as Bissell's Point,—whose unfriendly influence has been so significant by its submergence during the high water of last spring,—threatens to open a new channel on the Illinois side, and leave our present magnificent levee, along the whole front of the upper portion of it), and place St. Louis, to all intents and purposes, a mile or more away from her present great artery of commerce, and even transfer the latter bodily into another State. You are, no doubt, aware that such a catastrophe was seriously threatened many years ago, but was by some difficulty averted by the skill of (then) Lieutenant Robert E. Lee, of the United States Engineer service. The river is now rapidly cutting away the soft, sandy alluvium toward the ancient bed of Cahokia Creek; and, if permitted to once make its way into that channel, will, with extreme difficulty and great cost, be returned to its former course. And it appears that legal as well as engineering difficulties may supervene, as it is claimed by some that the city will have no right to interfere with the natural course of the river in any event, as against the interests of those concerned in matters and things upon the Illinois side. The good old homely adage concerning "A stitch in time" would seem to apply here with much force; but, as I had occasion to remark in a former letter, St. Louis usually considers long and carefully before acting in anything; and in the meantime, the river is rapidly making its new channel on the Illinois side, and depositing a sand-bed, soon to become a bar, then an island, and then a part of the Western shore, along the upper landing.

THE PASSIVE POLICY.

While the Ducal ball was in progress at the Southern, on Monday evening, nearly opposite, in the "Temple" building, a meeting was held of a semi-political, semi-patriotic kind. It was called by Democrats "as a battle of New Orleans anniversary, and answering, and intended to be a Democratic party, as a memorial that party to the victory there obtained." There was in it, however, but little of the nature of a patriotic celebration of a national anniversary. It was a resolution of Democratic antipathy, and resolved itself by necessity into a Democratic political meeting. The Passive policy was discussed, and its adoption pretty generally considered the present best policy for the Democratic parliament. The scene must have appeared quite homelike to the Russes, even if the temperature was somewhat higher than that which usually prevails on the Neva. The ruins of Chicago served to remind the Duke of a certain epoch in the history of Moscow. St. Louis has given him a more pleasant picture of the "Future Great."

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WISCONSIN.

Message of Governor Washburn.

The following comprises the main points of the message of Governor Washburn, of Wisconsin, delivered to the Legislature yesterday:

From the reports of the Secretary of State and State Treasurer, it appears that the balance in the Treasury belonging to the various funds, at the close of the last fiscal year, was $220,845 97. The receipts and disbursements of the general fund for the fiscal year were as follows:

RECEIPTS.	
State tax and tax on suits	$726,004.23
Railroad companies—tax	241,180.33
Insurance companies—taxes and license	58,220.93
Banks—taxes	1,264.79
Telegraph companies	317.72
Plankroads—taxes	1,125.56
Licenses—fees on State bonds	29,394.64
Miscellaneous sources	
Total	$1,059,578.91

DISBURSEMENTS.	
Salaries and permanent appropriations	$63,274.84
Legislative expenses—session of 1871	101,502.12
State Prison and charitable institutions	106,591.15
Interest on State debt	44,388.12
Special appropriations	76,345.55
Miscellaneous	186,707.18
Total	$578,877.42

This running leaves overdrawn Sept. 30, 1870, to the amount of $19,082.71, the balance at the close of the last fiscal year was $45,135 58. The above disbursements are thus recapitulated in the Secretary's report:

To pay State institutions	$398,591.15
Interest of State debt	143,860.54
Special appropriations and extraordinary expenses	13,315.54

Making the total extraordinary expenses $556,765.97 which, deducted from the total disbursements, leaves as ordinary expenses $736,057.45 The expenses of the same class in 1870 were $518,260.31.

STATE DEBT.

The State debt not having been changed during the fiscal year, was, on the 30th of September, 1871, $3,352,057, owing as follows:

On State bonds outstanding	$40,000.00
To the School fund—on certificates of indebtedness	1,559,700.00
To the Normal School fund—on certificates of indebtedness	479,850.00
To the University fund—on certificates of indebtedness	111,000.00
To the Agricultural College fund—on certificates of indebtedness	32,000.00
To the currency certificates—on certificates of indebtedness	52.00

The expenses of the fiscal year ending September 30, 1872, having already been estimated and provided for, it devolves upon you to make provision for the same for the year commencing October 1, 1872. The expenses of that year are estimated by the Secretary of State thus:

For salaries and permanent appropriations	$60,960.00
For legislative expenses	75,000.00
For interest on State debt	172,052.12
For special and charitable institutions	277,400.00
For Geological Survey	45,000.00
Printing—special appropriations and contingent expenses	97,000.00
Total	$775,052.12

The resources of the State for that year, are estimated as follows:

Railroad companies—license	$200,000.00
Insurance companies—tax and license	60,000.00
Telegraph and Plankroad companies	1,500.00
Hawkers' and peddlers' license	1,500.00
Tax on suits	4,000.00
Miscellaneous sources	10,000.00
Amounting to	$347,000.00
Authorized by existing laws:	
For interest on State debt	$172,052.12

Leaving to be provided for by you at this session $56,000.00

This estimate is deemed adequate for ordinary State expenditures for the year. Should large appropriations be made for purposes not anticipated in this estimate, additional revenues must be provided to pay them.

STATE TAX.

The State tax levied for 1871 was $620,143.10, being $91,861.13 less than the year before. This includes $156,000 for building the Northern Hospital for the Insane.

The following statement shows the assessed valuation, the amount of State tax, and the rate per centum of the tax for the last five years:

Yr.	Valuation.	State tax.	Rate per cent.
1867	$198,851,187	$640,000	1 1-2 mills
1868	245,140,774	644,388.12	2 11-100 mills
1869	242,041,124	515,921.12	2 1-2 mills
1870	250,350,000	712,005	2 8-100 mills
1871	455,500,500	620,143.10	1 36-100 mills

ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY FOR TAXATION.

The aggregate valuation of all taxable property, as returned by the assessors for 1871, is that of $455,500,605, excluding Ashland County. This is something over two millions less than the assessment of 1870.

TRUST FUNDS.

The productive trust funds of the State are as follows:

Fund.	Amount of fund Dec. 30, 1870.	Inc. during the year.	Dec. during the year.	Amount Sept. 30, 1871.
School	$2,196,267 19	$180,000 00		$2,376,267 19
University	207,592 14	3,272 24		207,139.38
Agricultural Col	159,526.39	22,600 00		182,126.39
Normal School	471,462.50	6,000 00		477,462.50
Total	$3,235,642.24	$188,086.76		$3,313,760.10

SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY LANDS.

The State has now for sale of

Acres.	
School lands	335,812.46
University lands	46,080.00
Normal School lands	811,462.50
Agricultural College lands	96,674.46

THE GREAT CONFLAGRATION.

The total amount of money received at the Executive office for the benefit of the sufferers in January 1, was $48,135 58. The above amount was transmitted to the Relief Committee at Green Bay; $6,008.16 was expended for supplies; $437 37 for sundry expenses—leaving unexpended $41,690 05, for which I hold this proceeds of loss. Henry Baetz, State Treasurer, for $33,559.05, and certificate of deposit in the State Bank at Madison for $71,886 13.

In addition to the foregoing contributions in money, large amounts of clothing and provisions have been received through the Executive office, and it is understood that large amounts of money, clothing and supplies have also been contributed through the Milwaukee and Green Bay relief committees. It is therefore recommended that a relief committee, consisting of one member of the Senate and two of the Assembly, be constituted at an early day, with authority to proceed at once to the "burnt district" and investigate the condition of the people there, and confer with the relief committees of Green Bay and Milwaukee, to ascertain what amount of relief will be required to place them in a comfortable condition, and when that can be accomplished. I also ask that you constitute some authority through which the amount now subject to my order may be so disposed of as to give the most relief and best meet the wants of the sufferers.

THE STATE PRISON.

The State Prison is in a satisfactory condition. There were 202 persons received during the year, and 30 discharged. The average number of prisoners during the year was 202, but two of whom were females.

CHARITABLE AND BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Institution for the Blind, at Janesville, has ample accommodations for all those unfortunates in the State who seek its benefits, and will have for some years to come. The number of pupils in attendance, during the last year, was 38. For the support of this institution, for the ensuing year, the sum of $21,000 is asked.

The institution for the education of the deaf and dumb, at Delavan, is filled to the utmost capacity. The number of inmates present Oct. 1st was 197, and the expense of maintaining the institution for the past year, was $35,750.97. The Trustees ask the appropriation of $20,000 for the ensuing year, and the expense of maintaining the institution for the next two years. Also a new building, to cost $40,000, and the schools are meeting the just expectations of the friends of the State.

RIVER IMPROVEMENTS.

The Wisconsin, of all others, nature has pointed out as the best channel of communication between the Mississippi and the lakes, is by the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers. The work of improving the latter has been carried on successfully under the supervision of the United States engineers, and it is expected that the results of the experiments which have been made will be such as to give the most entire satisfaction, and have fully protected all interests of the entire practicability of rendering the latter navigable for boats of light draft, at the small outlay of money. The appropriation authorized by Congress at its last session, amounting to $50,000, has been expended, and $25,000 will be required for the completion of the locks and dams. The amount estimated for current expenses of 1872 is $30,000.

STATE CAPITOL.

The State Capitol is now finished at a total cost of $650,000.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The past year has been a prosperous one for the society, the additions to its library, bound and unbound, being 5,000 volumes, and the total number of volumes in the library now reaches 50,350.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

The State University is in a more flattering, prosperous, and promising condition that at any former period in its history, and is rapidly growing in popular favor. The resources are now as ample as could be desired.

The School Fund now amounts to $971,[illegible], an increase during the year of $62,[illegible]. The increase for the year ending Sept. 1, 1871, was $61,180 45; added to balance on hand, Sept. 1, 1870, of $15,866.09, made available increase to Sept. 1, 1871, $68,738 54. Disbursements; $68,[illegible] leaving a balance on hand of $34,774.09.

The reports from the three schools now in existence at Platteville, Whitewater, and Oshkosh, for the year, is $40,000. The number of pupils is about 400, and the schools are meeting the just expectations of the friends of the State.

RIVER IMPROVEMENTS.

The work

The Chicago Tribune.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1872.

UNCLE SAM IN THE OPTION BUSINESS.

The Collector of Customs for the Port of Chicago, acting in pursuance of the instructions of the Secretary of the Treasury, has advertised for proposals for the sale of land to the Government for the site of the proposed new Post Office and Custom House. The Secretary's instructions, in turn, are ostensibly in accordance with the act of Congress of Dec. 20, authorizing the purchase of such site. This act is a very proper and beneficent one, appropriating a reasonable sum for a decidedly necessary purpose, and settling the question of location in a way least provocative of complaint. That the bill was passed so promptly, and without any scandalous wrangling over this question, is a cause for congratulation. Any re-opening of the question, by an attempt to amend the law, would be unfortunate, because it would undoubtedly be made the occasion of an unseemly squabble in the lobbies of Congress and elsewhere by the rival localities and individuals. Real estate rings would be formed, almost as numerous as the squares capable of being selected for the coveted job. North Side, West Side, and extreme South Side partisans would be active for their respective interests, and ready, doubtless, many of them, to buy up Congressmen or strikers to support "their side." It would evidently be very unwise to overhaul in Congress the question of locating the Government buildings in Chicago.

It must be confessed, nevertheless, that the work of restoring and enlarging these buildings is not progressing, or even promising, favorably. We have said that the order of Secretary Boutwell to Collector McLean is ostensibly in accordance with the law; but is it really in such accordance? The law directs the Secretary to secure the whole of the square on which the late Post Office stood, provided it can be acquired by purchase or condemnation at what he deems a reasonable price. If it cannot be thus acquired *by either of these methods*, then the Secretary shall proceed to solicit bids from the owners of lots in the circumjacent section of twenty-four squares. The Secretary has tried *one* of the methods proposed upon the central or original site, and that the *less* likely of the two to result satisfactorily; and, waiving the better method,—that of condemning the desired property, and submitting its value to the arbitrament of a sworn tribunal,—has ordered the Collector to advertise, in a regular manner, for proposals for the remaining twenty-four squares.

Not only is the obvious intent of the law violated in this operation, but the obvious interests of the Government and the welfare of Chicago are sacrificed at the same time. The Collector, in calling for proposals, requires bidders to stipulate, in writing, that "The Government may accept the proposal at any time on or before the 1st day of April next;" but all proposals must be in before the 1st day of February. That is, the Government, instead of buying a site for its buildings, paying over the cash and going on to build, buys a two months' option on each of the twenty-five blocks lying between Randolph and Jackson streets, Wabash and Fifth avenues. Of course, the owners of the lots are not going to tie up their property with such an option without getting paid roundly for it. It is a time when every lot-owner in the business section of the burnt district is particularly anxious to effect a sale or a long lease of his real estate, or to build upon it at once, so as to develop revenue. The months of February and March will be an exceedingly important period with all such owners, and to sacrifice all opportunities which will offer during those sixty days requires and justifies a considerable margin over what is the actual present value of the lots. Many of the lots have already been leased for a term of years, or conditionally sold, and, to get them free for the Secretary's grand option speculation, the owners must pay heavy bonuses to the parties with whom they have contracted. Hence, when the bids come in, in response to Mr. McLean's call, they will inevitably come in from 20 to 100 per cent higher than a fair valuation. Then, what does the present proceeding amount to? Nothing at all. The Secretary will decide all the bids to be exorbitant, and will proceed to condemn the remainder of the square which includes the original site. It will then be April 1, and the process of condemnation will occupy, at the rate which is indicated by the Collector's progress thus far, two or three months more, at the least. Meantime, the process of rebuilding the vacant area included within the limits mentioned will have been disastrously delayed, and merchants and builders who would not wait for the law's delays—or, rather, the delays which are in spite of law—will have been forced into some other locality with their business.

There is no excuse apparent for such a torturing of the law, and obvious throwing away of the advantages which the Government ought to have in this transaction. The process of condemning the old Post Office square, and obtaining a jury's verdict upon its value, need not occupy more than thirty days' time at the farthest. After this should be obtained, the bids of the owners of surrounding squares could be got in at once, published, and a bargain made for the cheapest of them. This course would secure to the Government the best bargain obtainable, and benefit the city not one tithe as much by the million or two of dollars which the sale would bring hither for investment, as by its setting free all the territory in question for ordinary business purposes, and settling many serious and damaging doubts about localities. The course which the Secretary and the Collector have marked out cannot, by any possibility, result favorably either to the Government or to Chicago. The only party which it can possibly benefit is some ring of speculators who may happen to know better than others which way the Government cat is going to jump.

Under the administration of M. Thiers, the French Republic has reached the "verge of failure. However excellent he may have been as an historian, as a ruler he has proved himself incompetent, old-fogyish, and inconsistent. He has done nothing which has called for favorable criticism, but much which has called for universal censure. Madame Thiers, on the other hand, has set herself at work upon reform, and, whether she succeeds or not, she will deserve the gratitude of the public for her efforts in this direction. Under the old *regime*, Eugenie set the fashions for the world, and issued her mandates in arbitrary style. Her authority was never questioned. When she changed her *coiffure*, all of her sisters, both plebeian and aristocratic, changed theirs. When she appeared in hoop-skirts, presto! every other woman, from the belle of Hong Kong, round the globe, to the squaw on our Western Plains, arrayed herself in all the amplitude of steel. It remains now to be seen whether the edicts of Madame Thiers will meet with like obedience. She has taken off her false hair, and "invited," as the French express it, all the ladies of her circle to do the same. The result has sent a pang to the hearts of hair-dressers and hair-dealers. The French woman are pulling all the hair off, and chignons, curls, plaits, and frizettes are given to the winds. The reform has not yet crossed the French frontiers. It may never. But if French women could only be made to understand how much might be made in economy, and how much might be gained in beauty, the edict of the better half of the President of the French Republic would not long go unrecognized. As the reform proposed by Madame Thiers, however, is a remarkably sensible one, we do not expect *it* will very generally be adopted.

THE MUTINY AGAINST CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

A mutiny has broken out against Civil Service Reform. The President had ordered that the rules and regulations for admission into the Civil Service, reported by the Commission of which Mr. Curtis was Chairman, should go into operation on Jan. 1, and here, on the 10th of January, there is an outburst of wrath among Senators and Representatives whose right to make appointments is no longer recognized. Senatorial and Representative designations to office have no longer any peculiar force, and the candidate selected by Senator Pomeroy for an office in the Civil Service is no longer appointed as a matter of course, but is referred to the Examining Committee to ascertain whether he is competent! The Civil Service Commission reported that the President, under the old *regime*, was a mere office-broker to fill contracts made by Senators and Representatives. The President accepted that report, endorsed its statements and its enumeration of the evils of the present system, and ordered that, to the extent recommended by the Commission, all appointments shall hereafter be made by competitive examination, and that no person shall be appointed who is not pronounced qualified by the examiners.

This decision in no way interfered with any lawful or proper authority or function of Senators or Representatives. But that it has interfered with the exercise of a power which they have usurped, and which they hold under the implied threat of opposing the Administration, is manifest. The struggle has come. Will Senators and Representatives yield the patronage for which they have pledged their support; or will the President take back the great and wholesome order of reform, under the threat of these Senators to oppose and defeat him? Senator Carpenter sounds the alarm. He will not send his candidates for office to a board of schoolmasters to get their commissions. Why should he do so? Was it for this that he supported San Domingo? If he yields his power to designate men for office now, where will this thing stop? How long before Senators will be utterly bereft of patronage, and be forced to ask a re-election upon no other grounds than their personal merits, the complexion of their record, and their intellectual capacity?

Senator Carpenter does not mistake the effects of Civil Service Reform, the first chapter of which has so unduly excited him. It *has* for its object the making of the President independent of Senators and Representatives, and Senators and Representatives independent of the President. Senator Carpenter does not mistake the effect of depriving members of Congress of this mastery over the Executive. By depriving them of a patronage which the Constitution prohibited them from exercising, Congress will be relieved of the presence of all that class of Senators and Representatives whose election has been procured by, and whose re-election depends upon, the maintenance in their States and districts of a corps of officials whose first duty is to pack nominating conventions and corrupt Legislatures to secure the re-election of their patrons. Civil Service Reform, now partially put in operation, when carried to its full extent, will sweep away the whole corrupt and debasing machinery by whose aid the halls of Congress have been so largely filled with weak and dishonest speculators and adventurers. Mr. Carpenter, it is proper to say, did not obtain his own election by such means, but rather in spite of them. Why should he desire to perpetuate the bad system?

The howling in Congress over the rejection of Senatorial and Representative appointments to office shows that the first blow for Civil Service Reform has struck home. The corrupt and debasing system has received a shock, and Senators and Representatives are the first to cry out with pain. The country will rejoice, and, the louder the cries among those who dabble in the present corrupt system of appointment, the more will the country applaud. The people will now have an opportunity to know who are the real supporters of the President in the useful work to which he has given his approval. If he is to be set upon by his own champions, like Actæon eaten by his own dogs, it is possible that he may find friends enough to make good the loss, from among those who have not been sufficiently enamored of his Administration heretofore to desire a continuance of it.

OUR NAVAL RESOURCES.

The recent threatening aspects of our relations with Spain, which is now happily changed, if there is any truth in the official statement to General Sherman, at Madrid, that there is no difference between Spain and the United States which cannot be settled diplomatically, and the startling announcement by Minister Sickles, that the Spanish navy could wipe our navy out of existence in two weeks, has set an "Observer" in the New York *Herald* to work upon the *Navy Register*. The results of his investigation are not calculated to induce much national glorification nor is it likely, after reading them, that we shall longer indulge in that pleasant self-deception, that we are the rulers of the seas. The result is no less surprising with regard to our own naval resources, than is Mr. Sickles' statement with reference to the Spanish navy. We have so long been accustomed to regard Spain as a third-rate power, hopelessly sunk in debt, expending its resources in revolutions and counter-revolutions, and gradually eating itself up, that there is probably hardly a person in the United States who supposed that Spain had any considerable number of vessels worth calling a navy, much less that she had a navy powerful enough in two weeks time to send our Armada to the bottom of the seas. There is probably scarcely a person who did not regard Mr. Sickles' announcement as a piece of national underrating, to be taken with a grain of salt, and that the atmosphere of Madrid and the influence of a Spanish wife had afflicted him with visions of those same castles in the air which the Spaniards now see when they look above the Pyrenees. The investigations of "Observer," however, among the figures and facts of the *Navy Register*, show that Mr. Sickles was not far out of the way in his statement, and that, whatever may be the condition of the Spanish navy, our own is in such a state of masterly inefficiency that the wiping-out process would not be so difficult an affair as it would seem.

The analysis of the list of vessels in the *Register* show that of the "first-rates," there is not one liner—nothing heavier than a wooden frigate. Out of the twelve, six are fit for duty, four will be rotten at the expiration of their present service, and two, which are in the docks, owing to suspension of work upon them, are rotting faster than they are being repaired. There are fifteen "second-rates," in which class sloops-of-war are included. Five of these fifteen are available. Five are in ordinary,—which means they are turned out like old horses, being no longer fit for service. Four are repairing, and one, unfit to cruise, has been put in special service. In the "third-rates," or gunboats of the larger size, eight of the twelve are in tolerable order, and the other four are rotting in ordinary. Of the "fourth-rates," or regular gunboats, there are eleven. Seven are available, and four are undergoing the same economical process of rotting. It will be remembered that one of this class, the Iroquois, while doing escort duty for the Russian Grand Duke, recently, in New York Harbor, broke completely down, owing to worthlessness. In the "fifth-rates,"—which is a miscellaneous assortment of double-enders, screws, tubs, old sloops-of-war, etc.,—there are nineteen, and eleven of these are good for nothing, and yet help to count in the showing of our national defences. Among these is a line-of-battle ship which was laid on the stocks sixty years ago, and is not yet finished. It is probable, however, that a single action would finish the whole of the fifth-rates, if they could ever be brought into one. In addition to these, is a goodly number of receiving, practice, and supply vessels and tugs, the most of which are, of course, only rotten hulls, entirely unfit for service. Lastly, comes a list of fifty-one iron-clads. Arithmetically, the list is a formidable one. It ought to be large and powerful enough, not only to wipe out the navy of Spain, but of two or three other countries thrown in; but, when the fifty-one iron-clads are tested by the facts of the *Register*, it appears that four are on the stocks, rotting where they can, and rusting where they can't rot. Forty-two are laid up, and twelve of these forty-two, which cost a million apiece, never floated after they were launched, on account of defective construction.

Such developments as these are humiliating at best, and give point to the disagreeable assertion made by Mr. Sickles. They become still more humiliating when it is added that no vessels are building to replace those which are lost, condemned, and rotting, and that those which are receiving repairs are put into active service again with an economy which will soon put them out of it again. The United States can muster just thirty-eight available vessels for general service,—that is, for service in time of war. At this rate of naval industry, how long will it be before the United States will be without a fleet of anything more serviceable than ferry boats? The *Register* enumerates 179 vessels as the strength of the United States Navy. As we have already said, only 38 of these are of practical use. What is to be done with the other 141? The number is large enough. There need be no increase in that respect; but would not it be well to make some use of these unfortunate 141, before we talk much about war with Spain? Would it not be more economical to make these available than to allow them to rot and rust? Some day we may realize the melancholy fate of the wise men of Gotham who went to sea in a bowl, and whose story would have been longer if the bowl had been stronger.

REPUDIATION IN VIRGINIA.

The ancient Commonwealth of Virginia is just now hesitating between the performance of a duty upon which depends her prosperity for a century, and an act of open and dishonorable repudiation. The amount of the State debt is not known. A year ago, the Legislature passed a law providing for the funding of this debt. On the 1st of July there was ascertained to be due by the State the sum of $36,914,208. This debt has been created or authorized by laws extending over a long number of years, and for a variety of objects. Large amounts of unpaid interest are outstanding. One design of the preceding act was to ascertain, as near as possible, the true sum of the debt, that the State might intelligently adapt its revenue laws to meet it. When the war began, the State owed $31,000,000 bonded debt, the interest on which was unpaid during the war. In 1866, this interest was funded. In 1867, the State paid but two-thirds of the amount of the interest falling due.

The funding bill of 1869 provided for the issue of a new bond, dated July 1, 1871, for both principal and interest of all the outstanding obligations of the State. The coupons on these bonds are made legal tender in payment of taxes. Under the funding act, a tax was levied, and has been collected to meet its requirements. Just at this juncture the Legislature interposes, and forbids the further issue of bonds under the funding law. It refuses also to appropriate the money in the Treasury to pay the interest on the bonds already issued. The real reason given is, that to execute the funding act by paying the annual interest on the debt would require a rate of taxation which the demagogues in the Legislature refuse to vote. Nevertheless, there is the debt, bearing interest. In round sum, the debt is $50,000,000; the interest is $3,000,000 annually. To refuse to pay the interest, by refusing to levy any tax for that purpose, is repudiation, and repudiation is the worst possible means to which the State can resort in order to encourage either capital or population to seek her territory. The debt must be paid at sometime. Already it has been increased 50 per cent by the accumulation of unpaid interest. The Legislature acts upon the theory that capital and population will more readily go to a State where debt is increasing with compound interest than to a State where debt is met by regular taxation, and the principal of which is gradually diminishing. The fate of Virginia hangs in the scale. The Governor has vetoed the repudiating action of the Legislature, but one house instantly repassed the bill over the veto.

Virginia may learn something from the history of Illinois. Thirty years ago the people of this State thought—or the Legislature thought for them—that it was better to repudiate than to pay taxes to meet old debts. Of course, Illinois lost her credit, and her people lost character. They could not buy goods on credit, nor borrow a dollar for any purpose. No persons wanted to deal with them on any terms. Immigration stopped. Emigrants passed through the State to Missouri, Iowa, and Wisconsin. In the meantime, unpaid interest accumulated, and the State and her people, without credit, were helpless. At last came relief. In 1848, the people placed in their Constitution an irrepealable law providing for a tax which was to be continued until the whole State debt and accrued interest should be paid. The measure had an instant effect. State and individual credit revived. Immigration poured in. The State filled up. Wild lands were put under cultivation; the tax annually became lighter, and, though the debt has not all been paid, owing to the refusal of the creditors to take their money, Illinois is practically free; has become the fourth State of the Union in population, and her growth in all other things has been in proportion. The debt of Virginia at this time is no greater, proportionally, than was that of Illinois in 1842. We had not then a mile of railroad or canal. Virginia has both railroads and canals. Our population was small and scattered. We had few roads, and our settlements were separated by almost trackless prairies and unbridged streams. Virginia has everything that goes to make up a high civilization, except common schools. All she wants is energy, and especially the energy which knows that a public debt can only be paid by taxation. The debt of Virginia will not deter capital or immigration, but the refusal to pay taxes, the repudiation of debts, and the disregard of common honesty will not only keep these out of the State; but will drive the thrifty and substantial of her present population to other States, where honesty and good faith govern the conduct of the community.

THE GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY MONOPOLY.

While the career of Fisk and Gould, as railroad-grabbers, has been brought to a sudden close, Vanderbilt, the original pattern in that line of financiering, maintains his own, occasionally reaching out and gobbling up a Western road, with which to extend and ramify his lines in the new seat of empire. But Vanderbilt is fast being overhauled by certain younger competitors here in the West, while at the South the Pennsylvania giant is swallowing up more corporations, and with them more miles of iron rail, laid or projected, than Vanderbilt ever dreamed of. The total foots up over 5,000 miles, all of which is either completed or advanced sufficiently to insure completion. Here is an inventory of the principal estates in Scott's Southern domain:

The Baltimore & Potomac Road, from Harrisburg to Washington, Fredericksburg, and Richmond,—to be running to Washington early this spring, and to Richmond by the beginning of 1873.

Routes from Richmond to Atlanta, *via* Danville and Columbia, and from Richmond to Charleston and Augusta, *via* Weldon and Wilmington.

From Atlanta to Knoxville, *via* Chattanooga, and from Knoxville around to Danville, to join with the first route from Richmond (this connection only projected as yet). At Chattanooga important connections are made, with a view to extensive operations toward New Orleans and the Southwest. These operations are sketched by a correspondent of the New York *World*, who, after elaborating upon the routes already mentioned, proceeds:

Owing to the depreciation of Southern stocks, these acquisitions have been made at a less than average cost—50 cents in the dollar, and at a cash outlay of about $10,000,000. The campaign is being pushed vigorously and negotiations are in progress for the Selma, Rome & Dalton line from Chattanooga to Selma, Ala., and thence to Meridian, Miss., whence they will strike for the Jackson, New Orleans & Great Northern Railway to the Crescent City. It is also proposed, should the latter roads be unapproachable, to build a short line from Selma, Ala., to New Orleans,—a distance of only 250 miles, forty miles of which are already graded. There is, it is said, a small charter from Cuba on the Alabama & Chattanooga Road to New Orleans, being only 500 miles. It is said that favorable arrangements have been made with the Mobile & Montgomery line connecting at Calera, viz.: the North Alabama with the Selma, Rome & Dalton line. Negotiations are also under way, with the Montgomery & West Point and Atlantic & West Point Roads, which, if successful, will give them the command of all the important lines in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, and two routes to New Orleans. Not content with these unparalleled combinations and gigantic schemes of railroad gobbling, influences are also at work to secure the Kentucky Central, the Memphis & Louisville, and the Kentucky Fire Canal, which, by building two short links between Lexington and Jacksboro and Nicholasville and Stanford, will comprise the principal lines of Kentucky, and connect their system with the Louisville and Cincinnati, with the Western connections of the Pennsylvania Central.

This vast system (exclusive of the present Northern possessions of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company) foots up about 5,000 miles, of which, however, a portion is still involved in the uncertainty of legislative action. But this uncertainty is hardly worth counting, when the extremely pliable character of the Southern Legislatures is taken into account. If the scheme shall be confined to legitimate railroad operations and the development of a large carrying trade through the South, that section will be greatly benefited by the combination, in spite of the one-sided bargain by which the franchises of the various roads have been acquired by their new controllers. At all events, it will make the Pennsylvania combination, already by far the greatest in America in respect to the length of its lines, so far in advance of all others as to preclude all comparison.

The Pennsylvania Company embarked in this business of buying or leasing other roads with a view merely to secure feeders to the parent stem between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. They have now dropped that, and commenced buying railways wherever they can find them cheap and see a probable future increase of value. The theory underlying these enormous purchases at the South is, that this section of the Union, depleted and impoverished as it has been by war, is now at the lowest ebb of its prosperity, and that Southern railways bought at their present value must yield a profit to the purchasers. The risk incurred is, therefore, not so great as it would at first seem. The Western Union Telegraph Company was constructed in the same way that the Pennsylvania Company is now feeding itself on small railways, and did not find it a losing business.

THE RIGHTS OF TRAVELLERS.

The Massachusetts Senate has adopted an order requesting the Committee on Railways to inquire into the expediency of providing by law that passengers on railway cars shall be exempt from liability to pay fares until they are provided with seats. Of the popular necessity for such a law in this State there can be no doubt, although its application would reach a different branch of travel. In Massachusetts, some action of this sort has been rendered imperative by the overcrowding of steam-cars, and the indifference of railroad companies in supplying cars enough to accommodate the public. Owing to the thickly-settled state of the suburbs around Boston, and the fact that the majority of the business men in that city reside in these suburbs, some of the companies run between three and four hundred trains daily to way stations, and yet do not accommodate the rush of travel, although their rolling stock, in most cases, is sufficiently ample to do so. It is the evident intention of such a law to compel these companies to provide more cars. In Illinois, we scarcely need such a provision in regard to travel by steam. Our railroads are able to supply the demands of the travelling public, and the traveller who is obliged to stand is the exception. The exact reverse of this, however, is true in regard to our horse-railroads, especially in the South Division of this city. In almost every hour of the day, the numbers of those who are obliged to stand is greater than those who are fortunate enough to get seats. The Horse Railroad Company seems to make no allowance for the fact that the tide of travel has been increased since the fire fully 50 per cent, by reason of the great number of laborers at work in the burned district, and the influx of people from the North into the South Division. Notwithstanding these facts, there seems to be no disposition on the part of the company to afford the public accommodation equal to the increased amount of travel. A law of this kind, permitting the standees to ride free, would soon force horse railroad companies to provide cars enough so that all their patrons could have seats, and would be an actual benefit to the companies also, in saving the ruinous wear and tear of horseflesh, and, in the case of the South Side Company, would swell their daily receipts, as all, being within sight of the driver, would be obliged to pay, whereas, now, a very considerable number do not pay at all. There is scarcely any probability that such a consummation can be reached by statute; but it is pleasant, nevertheless, to contemplate a condition of things in which the public would be allowed to have some rights, and, if Massachusetts secures the benefits arising from such a law, she will, at least, receive the congratulations of her suffering neighbors, who see no way out of their miseries.

The latest in the regularly-developed order of fraudulent transactions which has come to light, appears in a suit now pending in the United States Court of Claims, in which Charles Wells is plaintiff, and General Alvin P. Hovey, late United States Minister to Peru, and Henry M. Brent, Secretary of Legation and Charge d'Affaires of the United States at Lima, figure as the principals in a piece of very disgraceful diplomatic smallwork, if the facts are as alleged. The plaintiff, according to his showing, was, in 1868, United States Consul at some small Peruvian port, and while so acting was maltreated by the Peruvian officials. For the outrages perpetrated upon him he made pecuniary reclamation from the Peruvian Government to the amount of $50,000. He charges that Hovey and Brent engineered the claim for him, and that, when they had got through engineering it and lubricating Peruvian machinery, his share of the $50,000 was just one-fifth; and that of the balance Hovey got $5,000; Brent, $5,000; Farrand, the United States Consul at Lima, $5,000; and two Peruvian officials $5,000 each. As they were not injured at all, he naturally feels aggrieved at such an equal distribution of the amount he had calculated would heal his wounds, and sues to recover.

The nomination of Hon. William B. Allison for United States Senator, by the Republican caucus at DesMoines, will be ratified not only by the Legislature of Iowa, but by the Republican party generally throughout the Union. Mr. Allison has been so long in the House of Representatives, and so prominent in its deliberations, and so clear in his record, that he has achieved a national reputation second to that of no man of his years,—for he will be one of the youngest members of the Senate when he takes his seat in that body. Mr. Allison has achieved an important personal triumph, and Iowa has secured an exceptionally good Senator. His friends are justified in congratulating themselves on their victory.

Philadelphia has been selected as the place of meeting of the next Republican National Convention. The selection is, perhaps, the best that could be made. Politically speaking, it makes very little difference where the convention be held, and the main thing now is the selection of a place having the needful accommodations in the way of public halls, and in hotels for the comfort of the delegates and attendants of the convention. In all these respects Philadelphia, perhaps, at this time, offers better conveniences than could be offered by any other place. The convention will meet the first Wednesday in June.

A number of very worthy gentlemen, led, we believe, by Judge Strong, of the United States Supreme Court, are to meet in convention at Cincinnati in a few weeks, in order to take measures to insure the adoption of an amendment to our National Constitution, which shall (we quote) "recognize God" and "vindicate our claim to be a Christian nation." When there is so much to be done in the world, so much to be done in our own country, it is a pity to see time, and talent, and money wasted in such an attempt as this. If the promoters of the scheme push the matter, they can very likely get the amendment through both Congress and the State Legislatures; for a shrewd politician would see the damage that might result if he should be made to figure in the columns of the opposition press as a "blasphemous atheist who refused to recognize his God." But, when this has been done, what good will it do? We shall scarcely be able in this way to buy the favor of Deity, and the presence of the clause in the Constitution will prove certainly not turn anyone from the error of his ways. The honest, instead of "vindicating our claim to be a Christian nation" by ostentatious phrases, if these gentlemen would devote their time to making it one, would advance their cause much more than by any effort at a trade.

The brass-knuckle and Bowie-knife era of legislation has nearly passed away, but we occasionally hear of scenes which show us that the Darwinian theory of "reversion to ancestral traits" holds good. The latest manifestation comes from Richmond, Va. At a late meeting of the Common Council of that chivalric city, the members resolved themselves into a mob, and decided various difficult questions *vi et armis*. At last order was to some extent restored, and then, the report says:

> Mr. Chisell entered the floor.
>
> Mr. Donnan tries to get it.
>
> Chisell calls upon the President to know if he has not the floor, and continues to talk.
>
> Mr. Donnan said to Chisell, "You shall respect me, you dog; I will not stand it;" and he went for Chisell, but was stopped by friends before he reached him.

While Donnan was thus "going for" Chisell, reinforcements arrived in the shape of a certain Lieutenant Parker, who prudently aided with the majority, and seized Chisell. A lively little fight ensued, which was ended only by general exhaustion. The combatants are now resting and gathering strength for the next meeting. Rumors of duels abound, and certainly Chisell, who has been called "a dog," would win more gloriously vindicate his wounded honor than by giving his opponent a chance to shoot him like a dog. Unless something like this is the sequel, this high-toned Virginian "difficulty" will have a striking resemblance to a New York Common Council row. In this latter city such events would perhaps result in legal proceedings, but in Richmond Judges are probably not hired by the year, and justice might be done to all concerned,—which would be unpleasant for all.

California is becoming Puritanical. At Oakland, just across the bay from San Francisco, there is an institution, half college and half military school, yclept the "State University." When Governor Booth was inaugurated, the cadets turned out in their uniforms, and formed part of the procession at Sacramento. This proceeding, which involved the loss of about a week of study, the San Francisco *Bulletin* thinks was perhaps justifiable, as it was important to produce a good impression on the Legislature who will make the "military" appropriations for the next two years. But the *Bulletin* has only condemnation for what followed. On the night of the last day of the term there was a grand "University Ball." This melancholy proceeding has awakened the *Bulletin's* fiercest wrath. It calls upon the authorities to suppress all such frivolities in the future, and hopes that hereafter the students will never be allowed "to occupy the largest hall in the institution for a grand hoe-down." The "grand hoe-down" was probably stupid, and possibly ill-judged, but the *Bulletin* might find a more deserving object of attack in the *can-can* which nightly crowds the two-score concert-saloons of its own city.

Three years ago, Deputy Thiers, of the French Republic, suppressed two of the Bonapartist dailies of Paris,—the *Pays* and the *Liberal Avenir*,—because they published "a distorted report of a collision at Ajaccio between some of the troops of the garrison and some of the townsmen, accompanied with editorial observations insulting to the honor of both Government and army." Precedents for the action are to be found in abundance, both under the Second Empire and under the Third Republic; but there is a wide difference of opinion between Deputy and President Thiers.

Law is law in Mississippi, and lawyers demand the respect due the profession. But General Davis so far forgot himself as to "browbeat" Mr. Meek, whose subsequent death has befallen his name. The offence was given last August, when the two attorneys were on different sides of a murder suit. A few days ago, they met again as professional opponents at Columbus, Miss. The offence was repeated. Meek, mad with anger, covered Davis with his revolver, cried, "I cannot endure your browbeating; defend yourself," and then, before the General could draw his pistol, shot him dead. The murder was committed before a Judge and a full Court. Meek is said to be at the head of the State Bar. Undedged attorneys are in danger of going sadly astray nowadays, if they imitate their superiors, when the Judge of the San Francisco Circuit Court makes a murderous attack with bludgeon and pistol on an unarmed journalist, and the head of the Mississippi Bar commits a dastardly assassination in open Court.

We are not authorized officially, yet we take the responsibility of saying that Colonel George K. Leet and his partner, William F. Stocking, ex-sutler, ex-shoddy contractor, etc., on whom the Administration conferred a license to blackmail New York commerce at the rate of $100,000 a year without any risk, effort, or investment on their part, are opposed to what Senator Carpenter calls the Civil Service delusion. They are, therefore, to be turned out of all boards of schoolmasters sitting at Washington," and finding out things which the people ought not to know. Indeed, they are, like him and all other strict party disciplinarians, opposed to schoolmasters *in toto*.

Brazil is determined to have a "paternal" government. The Assembly of the Province of Rio de Janeiro has decreed that all girls and boys, between the ages of 7 and 14, shall go to either public or private schools; has provided adequate schools and a good corps of teachers; and now orders that children whose parents are too poor to give them decent raiment shall be clad at the expense of the Province. The force of kindness could but little further go.

If the skeleton in every household has no surer *raison d'etre* than the two skeletons which are at present figuring in every newspaper as the last discovery in Chicago, every household should shake off its lurking dread at once. The old bedbones which were found in the Tremont House kitchen have been immortalized by the reporters, the only sign of truth in which was the statement that "The remains could not be identified."

The Mobile *Register*, apparently in want of exchanges from which to "clip," publishes a two-column article mainly composed of clippings from the Bible. It aims to show that Jerusalem, Tyre, and Sidon were great commercial cities, and yet had not a tithe of the advantages of Mobile. The inference of the glory that awaits the metropolis of Alabama is plain, and the *Register* urges the citizens thereof to be up and doing.

NEW YORK.

The Fisk Sensation—Some Things Touching It.

Descriptions of the Men and Localities.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NEW YORK, Jan. 8.

Colonel Fisk died one day before the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans, notorious to the end. There is a good deal of mandlin woe and mandlin sympathy for the defunct; but he would be a Colonel and an Admiral, and he died in a gory way. Everything appears to have been consistent and appropriate. He failed to have any last words, and nothing in life became him like the leaving of it.

HIS SYMPATHIZERS.

This morning, his funeral attracted myself, amongst other idlers to Fisk's little residence, in the rear of that noble pile, the Grand Opera House. Over the summit of the latter, a large American flag was suspended at half-mast; at the summit of the flagstaff, a huge liberty-cap. Musicians, in gorgeous red coats and epaulets, were assembling, and the soldiery of the Ninth Regiment, who liked the deceased very much, and profited by his patronage. Many of those militiamen are thoughtless, needy clerks, and, in proportion to the odium of Fisk, their enthusiasm rallied around him. Money is power, and some very honorable young gentlemen were dazzled by this man's liberality with what he got so easily. I know one, in particular, a good husband and an industrious clerk, surrounded with a virtuous family, and incapable of dishonesty, yet weeping over his Colonel, and furious at any proposition or imputation against his character. The hero is what you will. New York to-day seems to feel that it has lost its great public spirit, and the funeral pomp could not be more imposing if Alexander Hamilton had just fallen under the bullet of Burr. Bar-keepers, hackmen, and the classes which stand midway between the carbstone and the threshold, acknowledge Mr. Fisk to have been their beau *ideal*. He is sent to the grave like Tom Sayers; horses weep, and dogs howl, and the animate creation will not be consoled.

THE PUBLIC OPERA HOUSE.

Fisk's house is a pretty, unpretending thing, of brick, painted light yellow, and ornamented with an iron verandah. The Opera House adjoining it, built with the proceeds of Western whiskey, and which has been the promiscuous depot of *opera bouffe*, Tammany injunctions, and a stupendous railroad, receives the remains of this reprobate by the door. This is probably the theatre in the world more superb than this, its long lobbies and *foyer* being brilliantly painted, and the auditorium lofty, spacious, and elegant beyond any I have seen. The drop-curtain, the work of Russell Smith, represents the landing of Columbus, and is an adaptation from Weir's picture of the same subject now in the rotunda of the Capitol at Washington. The private box on the left hand, where I had once seen Fisk and Gould entertaining Judge Barnard and Mayor Hall, was, amidst an extravagant profusion of costly flowers and ornamental gas-fitting, while Mastinedi held court in the opposite box, was now empty; while the late proprietor's large and imposing office lay at present near at hand, perhaps the most extraordinary of all the many pageants which had been enacted within those walls. There had been pinched, under Fisk's curious enterprise, the very finest ballets, light operas, pantomimes, and spectacles, known in this country. The wondrous Montefiasi and the attenuated Silly had given the works of Offenbach upon that stage with greater splendor than the composer himself had ever seen in Europe.

CAUSES OF FISK'S POWER.

There was in Fisk a certain eccentric nobleness which commended him to the Gothamites, pactionarly to the large clerical and out-of-door classes who subsist upon the monthly sensation. He was a good deal of an American in his patriotism, and was fond of the American flag, the Fourth of July, and a band of music; and much of his time was spent in contriving something new for the public edification. The average New Yorker is no moralist, and his indignations are not lavished upon that which he can see. Success in New York is the one thing appreciated; and Fisk, amongst other abilities, had an eminent knowledge of this community, for he was a scion of great Arcadian stock. Cornelius Vanderbilt, there never was any man in New York with his power. Vanderbilt relies upon the purchasable power of money to see in resistless sums; but Fisk had possibility; and he had done her justice with his last testament, and compelled her name with that of his parents, to show that, after all this prodigal son could purchase nothing more valuable with his princely means than that which the poorest of us may have,—to return to our father's house and receive the forgiveness of those we have wronged.

A CREATURE OF OUR TIME.

Fisk was a fantastic, but legitimate, creature of our time. He was as natural to New York as Vanderbilt, Jerome, or Drew. A city which worships wealth, admires nothing but success, and is engrossed in the intolerable pursuit of commercial power, may expect, every now and then, to see some such mountebank stumble in upon it, like Harlequin in the pantomime, and make its sordidness contemptible by the ridiculousness with which he shows us that the talents of more moneymakers and power-getters may be imitated by very coarse and illiterate folks. The man has gone, after his little act upon the stage; and the indications are promising that we shall now have more serious times, and that society will draw breath at the close of this career, and conclude that, after all, the only genuine wealth is respectability.

THE GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL.

The Grand Central Hotel, where Fisk was killed, is the most capacious establishment in New York; but it generally ranks as a second-class house, charging a dollar less per day than the Fifth Avenue or the St. Nicholas. It was originally called the Lo Yarge House, and contained the Winter Garden Theatre, where Stuart managed with such signal ability, and Edwin Booth made his first appearance. At the close of the war, the name of this house was changed to the Southern Hotel. The theatre being burnt out, a carpet-merchant named Higgins bought the property, added two stories and Mansard pavilions, and thereon rear buildings, so that it will now accommodate 800 guests, or more than any other house in the city. Its proprietor, Powers, formerly kept one of the chief Fifth avenue hotels, just off the City Hall square. The Grand Central, as it is pretentiously called, is a sort of commercial travellers' headquarters, and its long, sprawling lobbies are filled every night with country buyers, and town-salesmen hunting up their victims. Fisk died in the midst of the multitude, as he had lived, and gave this inglorious advertisement. Stokes, the murderer, appears to be a perfectly cool man of the world, and, what is singular, he has testified under oath that his relations with Mrs. Mansfield have been of a uniformly respectful character. The country is the general belief, however. Not the least remarkable phenomenon in the ever-varying mutations of human behavior is the fact that the splendid stress over whose charms this murder has been done, could fly from the protestations of Fisk, the millionaire, to the side of a man nearly ruined in pocket and without any particular graces.

THE FUNERAL.

Fisk's funeral, which has just passed under my windows, was imposing, but not very long. It covered about four blocks. Fisk's own regiment, richly dressed, turned out with unanimity, and there were a good many carriages containing politicians, hotel-people, and masculines at large. There were no females, except those immediately connected with the deceased. The Erie operatives made a considerable feature of the parade, and Fisk's steamboat-folks were out in their uniforms. His saddle-horse followed the hearse, and the whole affair was dignified and creditable. It may be well to remark that, among the better acts of Fisk's life, were his prompt and hearty labors in aid of the sufferers by the Chicago fire, when he despatched the very first express-trains through to the devastated city, and led the example in that unparalleled display of generosity whereby the world was made akin.

GATH.

REAL ESTAT

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

MONETARY.

THURSDAY EVENING, Jan. 11.

The Rothschilds proposition to take $200,000,000 more of the bonds authorized by the Funding Act, evidently means business, and their proposal is now before the Ways and Means Committee of the House. It is, of course, understood that the Rothschilds would not contemplate this operation unless there was a profit in it, though it is difficult at present to guess just where it is to come in. The only thing that can be safely assumed is, that the provision in the Funding Act, that the bonds shall not be sold below par in gold, will be evaded by the payment of a large commission, or by the duplication of interest or by some other means. Our 6 per cent bonds are now worth about 109 in gold, on which the 6 per cent interest pays about 5½ per cent. Our 10-40 five per cents are now selling for 90@90¼ in gold, and the new 4 per cents for a fraction over 90. These figures certainly show that the legitimate demand, for American securities in Europe would not enable the Messrs. Rothschilds to sell the $200,000,000 of 4 per cents and the $200,000,000 of 4 per cents which they offer to take during the next twenty-two months,—at par.

But the experience of the calling in of the 5-20's at 107 for redemption at par in gold, shows what the effect on the "called" bonds has been to reduce their price to a fraction below par in gold. If the Government had left the funding in hand to pay off the whole of the 5-20's, and were to call them all in for redemption the price of all of them would be up to par, and the withdrawal of so large a mass of securities from the market would oblige capital to seek investment in other bonds and securities. The process of changing the investment of so much capital would in itself advance the price of all securities which afforded comparatively permanent investment; in other words, the effect of this capital seeking new investment, would be to put down the rate of interest. Something like this might be expected if the public were persuaded that the $200,000,000 of new bonds proposed for by the Rothschilds would be sold, and the money applied to the redemption of the 5-20s at par. Holders of 5-20s, which are now from 2 to 3 per cent above par in gold would hasten to sell before the whole of the decline to par was experienced, and as the capital so invested in these bonds necessarily seek investment in similar securities it would drive into the next best interest-paying stock offered, viz.: into 5 per cents, and eventually, when these get above par by reason of capital crowding into them—into the next best interest-paying security. But the Government has not sufficient surplus in the Treasury to show a proposal of calling in any considerable amount of 5-20's, and the Rothschilds furnish enough money to start this process of change, and the investment of $200,000,000 of capital there is no question but they will charge for it, and that their profit will come out of the Treasury of the United States.

There is, however, still another aspect to the proposition to turn $200,000,000 of capital now invested in Government securities, or something else, at a lower rate of interest, namely: the effect it would have to lower the rate of interest generally, and consequently to make money more plenty. The purchase of $200,000,000 of the 6 per cent debt in the last three years, together with the calling in of $150,000,000 of 5-20's, has certainly had already had the effect to make a material reduction in the average rate of interest in the year 1871, and to increase the volume of the supply of money. These effects afford a basis for estimating those which would probably follow the inauguration of the plans proposed by the Rothschilds.

THE MONEY MARKETS.

both local and general, the tendency toward an easier condition is still noticeable. The effects of the dividend disbursements in the Eastern cities, and the return of currency from the West to New York, are being felt now to a considerable extent in that city. In this market money is freely offered at 6 per cent on Government bonds and 7 per cent. and on short time paper at 10 per cent. Long time paper is, however, not much sought after, and lenders are for 90 days have to pay higher rates in the open market.

Exchange is firm at 75c to 80c per $1,000 premium between banks, and 1-10 discount@par between bankers sell at 1-20 premium, and buy at 1-10 discount.

Quotations for buying and selling bonds in this market; this afternoon, are given by Messrs. Lent, Preston & Kean, as follows:

	Buying.	Selling.
U. S. 6s of '81	114	114 7-2
5-20s of '62	109 1-4	109 1-2
5-20s of '62, (called)	106 5-8	
5-20s of '64	109 1-4	110
5-20s of '65	110 3-4	111
5-20s of '67, January and July	111	111 1-8
5-20s of '67, January and July	111 3-8	111 5-8
5-20s of '68, January and July	109 1-2	109 3-4
U. S. 10-40s (new issue)	109 1-4	109 1-2
U. S. Currency 6s	115 1-4	115 1-2
Chicago City 7s	100 @ 101	100 @ 101
Chicago City 7s	100	
Cook County 7s	98	
Cook County 8s	103 7-8	
Sterling Exchange	110 @ 110 1-2	
Gold Exchange	108 1-8	108 3-4
Land Warrants—160s	172	175
—120s	142	145

Agricultural College Land Scrip ..... 173 @ 178

The following quotations for bank and miscellaneous local stocks are furnished us by C. Granville Hammond:

	Bid.	Asked.
First National	1.65	1.35
Third National	1.10	1.35
Merchants'	1.20	1.35
Union National	1.40	
Cook County National		1.50
German National	1.55	1.61
——	1.15	1.20
Chicago City Railway	1.75	1.80
West Division Railway	1.25	1.30
Northwestern Railway	1.10	1.15
National Watch	1.00	1.05
Chamber of Commerce	.80	.90

SECRET SALES.

The Corn Exchange National Bank, @ 102.
1,000 German National Bank, @ 95.
20,000 Chamber of Commerce, @ 95.

LATEST.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—Gold opened at 108¾ sold up to 108¾, and closed at 108¾. Loans were made at 7 per cent. Daily clearances, $80,000,000. The government sold to-day amounted to $1,000,000 in coin, at 108 to 108 1-10. There were sales of $1,000,000 in coin for cash, at 108 1-10@108 7-8 per cent gold loans were made, and in the afternoon at 9 to 6. Governments dull and weak. Prices as compared with those last night show a decline of ¼ on 6's of '81, a decline of ⅛ on 5-20's of '62, a decline of ⅛ on 5-20's of '64, a decline of ⅛ on 5-20's of '65, a decline of ⅛ on 5-20's of '67, and a decline of ⅛ on 5-20's of '68. Currency 6's unchanged. Sales of 10-40's at 109¼@109½. Sales of 5-20's of '62 at 106½@106¾. Sales of 5-20's of '64 at 109¼@109½. Sales of 5-20's of '65 at 110¾@111. Sales of 5-20's of '67 at 111@111¼. Sales of 5-20's of '68 at 109½@109¾. Sales of 10-40's at 109¼@109½. Sales of 6's of '81 at 114¼@114½. Sales of currency 6's at 115¼@115½. Sales of 6's of '81 at 114¼@114½. Sales of 6's of '81 at 114¼@114½. Sales of 6's of '81 at 114¼@114

THE LAST DUEL FOUGHT IN MISSOURI.

How Thomas C. Reynolds and B. Gratz Brown Settled a Quarrel.

From the Kansas City Times.

"Would you like to visit the Governor's new house this evening?" asked a gentleman from St. Louis, as he pointed over to the high piers upon which it is built, and saw the cold rays of the winter's sun shining on its Mansard roof and the clear-cut angles of the attractive architecture. For answer there was assent, and so later, when the party re-assembled, it was in front of the elegant mansion, not yet finished within, yet far enough advanced to give promise of great future comfort, and space and hospitality.

A gentleman approached the visitors who had demanded attention in various ways than one. He was not tall, yet about the man there was an air of culture and refinement impossible to be misunderstood. The absence of fashion in the cut of his cloth and the style of his garments betoken the student. Tailors can make most things—a book, a jockey, a politician, a late sitter at clubs, a Bacchus at banquet, a bore to the wayfarer, or a torment beloved in his pulpit—but a statesman never. This gentleman was most polite, talked of a number of things, lead the way through every room, explained all the conveniences of this improvement and that improvement, but before doing these things he had been introduced as Governor B. Gratz Brown. When the visit was over, and the party left the new mansion, one of the visitors said to another:

"The Governor walks a little lame—what is the matter?"

"It is from a wound received in a duel," replied the chief spokesman of the party.

"Tell us all about it, then, as you seem to be well informed."

"I have forgotten the particulars, but will get them for publication in the Kansas City *Times*.

Born of this visit and this conversation is the following correct account of an affair which belongs to Missouri, and which at the time of its occurrence produced great excitement throughout the State:

In 1856, Thomas C. Reynolds was practically the leader of the Democratic party in St. Louis. The contests were then marked by a great deal of keen and biting personality, and a man had either to do as much fighting as he did speaking. The code was recognized by all aspirants, and he who refused a challenge was as dead politically as socially for after time. That year Reynolds was the anti-Benton candidate for Congress against Frank P. Blair, the Benton candidate. Trusten Polk, now living in St. Louis, was running against Mr. Attenton for Governor, whom he defeated after a singularly severe and comprehensive canvas s. Reynolds had no earthly hope of an election, and so expressed himself to those friends who waited upon him, but the battle was fought and that he should make the race, and he did. The contest was the most excited ever known in St. Louis. Father M. Kennett was the Whig candidate, but being in Washington City at the time, took no part in the campaign. The field being thus left clear to Blair and Reynolds, they canvassed the entire county and city together, making about forty speeches each. The nominations had been made in May, 1856, and the election took place on the first Monday in August, of the same year. Both of these men were bold and aggressive in their manner of warfare, naturally arousing on either side a great deal of energy and excitement. Reynolds was defeated, but he carried the Democratic vote up from about six hundred in 1854, to over twenty-five hundred in 1856, this gain electing the entire anti-Benton State ticket.

McKee and Fishback, the present proprietors of the St. Louis *Democrat*, were then its owners, and B. Gratz Brown was its editor-in-chief. An article was written particularly severe upon Reynolds, and those who are acquainted with Brown's style know how mercilessly bitter he can be when he tries. Reynolds replied briefly, and in the course of over the same offensive. Brown challenged him immediately, and Reynolds as promptly accepted. Both men meant earnest work, and went about it very calmly and very deliberately. Both represented, besides, a cause, both had a large number of firm and fast friends, and both were cool, brave and daring.

Brown's seconds were Colonel David Mitchell, formerly a Superintendent of Indian affairs in the West, and of great reputation as an Indian trader and fighter, and Leo Walker, Esq., a gentleman from South Carolina, who had married into a wealthy St. Louis family, and who resided there. It was understood, also, that besides these immediate friends, Brown had, as well, Colonel Thomas H. Benton and Frank P. Blair. Reynolds' friends were Colonel Ferd. Kennett, of Selma Hall, the best pistol shot in Missouri, and Captain Thomas B. Hudson, a leading Democratic politician, who had distinguished himself under Doniphan and in Doniphan's march to Mexico. For advisers Reynolds had Colonel David H. Armstrong, the present Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of the State, Colonel W. A. Linn, the then Collector of Customs at St. Louis, Isaac H. Sturgeon, for a long time President of the North Missouri Railroad, and, in fact, the Democrats generally of the city. John How was Mayor of St. Louis at that time, and Judge Henry A. Clover Prosecuting Attorney. Although these these gentlemen knew that a duel was on the *tapis*, and that a challenge had been sent and accepted, such was the tone of public sentiment, and such the leniency with which these things were regarded, that no efforts at arrest were made, and no interference of any kind attempted. When people are in Rome, they must needs do as the Romans do, and hence every precaution was taken, and carried out by the principals and their respective seconds.

Selma Hall, the place of meeting, was an elegant country seat in Jefferson County, Mo., forty miles below St. Louis, and the property of Colonel Ferd. Kennett. Here nature and art had combined to make the spot one of the loveliest in the West. Flowers of fantastic stains abounded everywhere. In the August noons huge forest trees made a grateful shade, under which deer rested at ease, cropping the rich grass at intervals, and crunching low wintergrals, as the memory of the old wild days of horns and huntsmen came up from the lowlands and the river. There were steeds ever in stall for the young bloods however by Kennett and Hudson, and books for the pale students who stole away from medicine and law to sleep one night with the hills and the clover; costly wines for whosoever would drink, and it was open door and ready latch-string for every wayfarer benighted through chance or inclination.

To this delightful place, on the 23d day of August, 1856, Gratz Brown and his friends repaired. Etiquette required that Reynolds' second, Colonel Kennett, should receive them, which he did with princely hospitality, and they were at once domiciled and surrounded with every attention and luxury possible. The night before leaving St. Louis, Reynolds remained at the house of Isaac H. Sturgeon, and slept on somebody else's pillow, and so call him loudly the next morning before arousing him. He had in the meantime procured the services as surgeon of Dr. J. H. Shore, a distinguished physician of St. Louis, who, together with Reynolds, Kennett, and Hudson, passed over into Illinois by the North St. Louis ferry. They proceeded down leisurely to a point opposite Selma Hall, crossing the Mississippi at the Illinois Landing, and reaching their destination at about 12 o'clock on the second day.

On Monday evening, August 25, Reynolds crossed over to Selma Hall, accepting the hospitality of G. W. Chadbourne, Esq., now President of the St. Louis Shot Tower Company, but then living on the river bank, a few hundred yards from Kennett's elegant mansion. For a week Kennett had been in his element. Nothing pleased him so well as a duel, if a duel had to be fought, and he made all his preparations with that end in view, and so later, when the party reass